# Breaking the Barriers To Health Care El Paso County, Colorado

# Building and Sustaining Collaboration

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HCAP Conference January 21, 2004



#### The Situation

- Population growth of over 30% between 1990 and 2000
- ❖ A primary care physician to resident ratio in El Paso County of 1:2464 in 1998 (HRSA, 2000)
- Problems with the original implementation of CHP+
- ❖ A significant number of small businesses and growth in sectors of the economy that have not historically provided health insurance
- The increasing cost of health insurance
- More recently, layoffs and downsizing

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### The Uninsured in El Paso County

\* At the time of the initial application, the *State of the States* Report (2001) indicated that throughout 1999, **16.8**% of

Coloradoans were without health

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insurance.



# The Community Access Program (CAP) Grant

- September, 2001 grantee
- Community Health Partnership
  - Sponsoring Organization
  - Community based 501C3
- Dept. of Health and Environment
  - Fiscal Agent
  - Project Manager

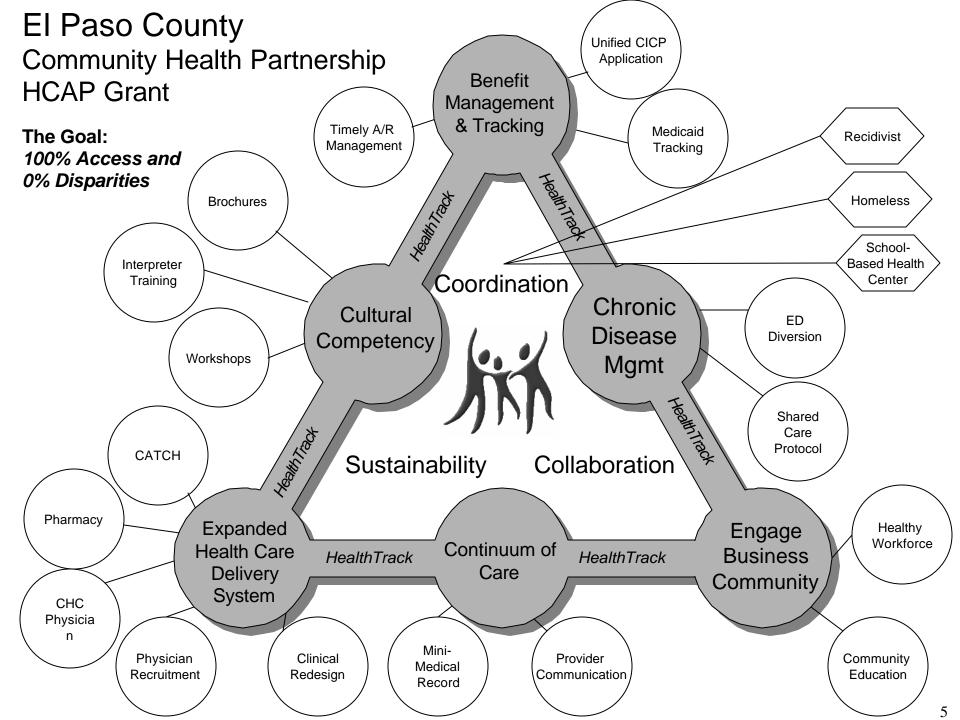


## **Expected Outcomes of HCAP**

- Increased enrollment in public health insurance;
- Improved care for the uninsured and underinsured -
  - ✓ timely,
  - ✓ well-coordinated,
  - ✓ culturally appropriate
- Increased cost recovery

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THE ULTIMATE
GOAL IS FOR OUR
COMMUNITY TO
HAVE
100% ACCESS
AND
0% DISPARITIES!



Community
Health
Partnership,
Inc.

Action through Collaboration



# Multiple Sectors & Cultural Diversity

#### Members include

- Beth El College of Nursing
- Colorado Springs Dental Society
- Colorado Springs
   Osteopathic Foundation
- Community Health Centers
- El Paso County Department of Health and Environment
- El Paso County Department of Human Services

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 El Paso County Medical Society

- Kaiser Permanente
- Memorial Hospital
- Penrose-St. Francis Health Services
- Pikes Peak Hospice and Palliative Care
- Pikes Peak Mental Health
- Pikes Peak United Way
- SET of Colorado Springs



#### Shared Vision

#### **\* CHP Mission:**

To create and maintain a collaborative community-wide system to support the continuum of health care delivery for uninsured and underserved people in the Pikes Peak Region.

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<sup>\*</sup>Bylaws of Community Health Partnership - 1997



#### What made the difference?

- A universal issue
- Recognition that "there is no cavalry on the horizon"
- \* A common local solution is the only solution
- HCAP enabled, fostered and required collaboration

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## CHP evolved as a result of our HCAP work

- Trust because of the relationships already in place
- High profile, well-respected, community advocate helped to mobilize to action
- Team Learning was promoted
  - HCAP conference attendance

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- Field trips
- Participation in TA calls



## Development of CHP

- CAP process reinforced importance of partnership & involvement of high-level key leaders. Executive level attendance and commitment.
- Communication is the key!
  - E-mail communications
  - Briefings about subcommittees

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- · Minutes available to all
- Consistent, regularly scheduled meetings



## Development of CHP

- Strategic relationships cultivated by the CHP chairperson
- Individual members taking the initiative to build relationships and work together in new ways
- From information sharing to problem solving to outcomes driven

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#### Behind the Scenes Staff

- Project Manager
- Grant Manager
- Community Health Planner

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- Liaison with CHP
- Worker Bees



#### Behind the Scenes Activities

- "Care & Feeding" of individual partners
- Numerous interactions with "worker bees"
- Organizing and consensus building
- Juggling don't let any ball drop
- Anticipation of problems

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# Challenges to Successful Coalitions

- Change in leadership of an individual organization
- Change in leadership of overall partnership
- Turf battles
- Egos everybody needs credit
- \* Redundant communication
- Communication gaps within organizations
- Engagement of Elected Officials

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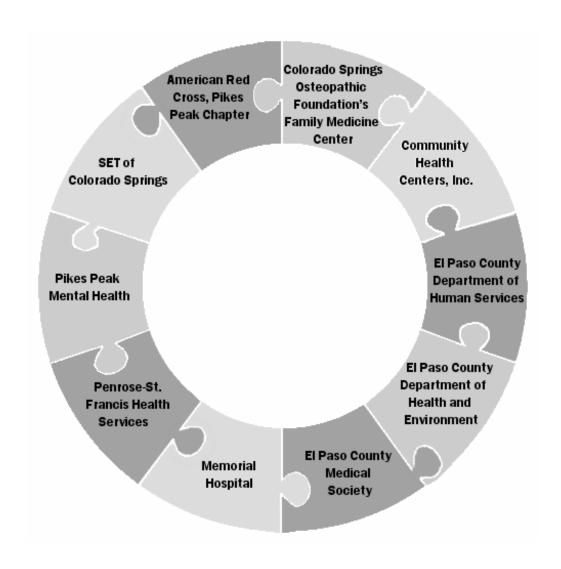


## Sustaining the Collaboration

- Planned change
  - Strategic thinking
  - Grow and develop
- \* Maintain shared vision

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- Bring in new partners and new \$\$
- Celebrate successes



Community Access Program, El Paso County, Colorado